

General Statement by the Republic of Korea

Thank you, Madam. Chair.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea would like to express its great thanks to the Chair and the WIPO secretariat for their efforts to prepare the 26th session of the CDIP, one of the most important committees in WIPO.

Also, we would like to thank the delegation of Bangladesh for delivering the opening statement on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group, which we are aligned with.

As the CDIP reports show, the delegation of the Republic of Korea recognizes the valuable progress made over the years by the CDIP towards implementing the Development Agenda recommendations.

It is undeniable that intellectual property is one of the most important means to realize sustainable economic development in developing countries. In this regard, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) continually makes its effort to bridge the IP divide through various projects of supporting means dedicated to the developing countries and LDCs.

Even in the midst the COVID-19 crisis, KIPO has been carrying out IP sharing projects to improve the lives of local communities in developing countries and LDCs.

This year, a project was implemented in the Philippines to improve the productivity of the local uraro starch, a major source of income to the local people. To develop technology that is appropriate to local circumstances, we helped to develop and distribute a processing equipment for uraro starch and, at the same time, created a related brand in order to contribute to local economic activities. In addition, in Kyrgyzstan, an energy-efficient greenhouse with smart cultivation technology was developed to improve the income and quality of life of the local community.

To date, KIPO has successfully completed 30 appropriate technology projects in 16 countries and 25 brand development projects in 15 countries to meet the needs of LDCs and developing countries.

KIPO has also started to work closely with other Korean government departments to implement R&D projects based on IP information in developing countries. In particular, we are in the process of implementing an R&D project to mitigate the impact of diesel engine vehicle emissions on the air pollution levels of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Using IP information, the developed technology will help to mitigate car exhaust gases. And in Vietnam, a technology based on microbiome and genomics will help to improve the robustness and productivity of livestock.

In the effort to bridge the IP divide among Member States, KIPO has been collaborating with WIPO to carry out projects through the Korea Funds-In-Trust (FIT). For example, the hosting of Appropriate Technology Competitions have allowed local communities to directly participate in the development of technologies with pragmatic implications to their local regions. Unfortunately, the

global pandemic has caused many projects to be delayed, but they will be continued as soon as the outbreak of COVID-19 is contained.

Furthermore, KIPO aims to provide a variety of IP education programs for developing countries in cooperation with WIPO Academy. Even in the COVID-19 situation, KIPO has continued its effort through re-organizing and administering online courses for remote participation.

Especially this year, the second matriculation of the Master's Degree Program in IP and Development Policy (MIPD) is being held online for 18 public officials from 16 developing countries. And the patent, trademark, design, and IP Summer School courses for 2021 have been successfully administered online as well.

We continue to look forward to having constructive discussions regarding such endeavors throughout this session.

Thank you, Madam. Chair.